

FEEDING VALUE OF DRIED CITRUS PEEL IN BROILER DIETS

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To evaluate the nutritive value of dried citrus peel as a possible ingredient of broiler feeds, outer peels of the Satsuma Mandarin orange (*Citrus unshiu* Marc.) were collected from a processing plant. Peels were sun-dried and ground. Chemical analyses were conducted for proximate principles and selected minerals and vitamins.

A feeding trial was conducted using broilers. A total of 192 day-old chicks (Maniker strain) were divided into 16 groups of 12 birds each. Each group was assigned to one of four treatments replicated four times. Dietary treatments consisted of four levels (0, 2, 4 and 6 per cent) of citrus peel replacing wheat bran.

During the experimental period of 6 weeks, chicks fed 2 or 4 per cent of citrus peel gained numerically more weight and consumed numerically more feed than those fed the basal diet without citrus peel. Citrus peel at 6 per cent slightly decreased weight gain and feed intake. However, differences were not significant. As the level of citrus peel in diets increased, more feed was required per unit weight gained ($P < 0.05$), indicating that citrus peel probably contains less metabolizable energy than wheat bran, due to a higher fibre content.